



Learning English with CBC

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CALGARY Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan | June 6, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource for both learners and instructors

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys



Natasha Frakes

*Voice of Learning
English, CBC Calgary*



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NEWSCAST 1

CALGARY POLICE ARREST PAIR ACCUSED OF TARGETING SENIORS IN CONSTRUCTION SCAM



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-contractor-fraud-search-police-charged-1.3613004>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

What is a scam?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words used in the title and their meanings.

arrest	take into custody
accused of	charged with a crime
targeting	singling out; aiming at
scam	a dishonest plan; a fraud; a trick

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast once or twice for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

Question: Why were the two people (pair) arrested?

READING ACTIVITY 1

Read the script below.

Police have arrested a man and woman **in connection with** scams that **conned** Calgary seniors in the south of the city **out of** tens of thousands of dollars.

One elderly victim, who had Alzheimer's disease, paid over \$8,500 for work on a **roof** last year that was never completed.

The group offered to clean the victims' **eaves troughs** and do other **odd jobs** around their homes, but started **pointing out** other jobs they said needed doing, charging them more than \$37,000 for work that was never done.

None of the **suspects** were licensed to **carry out** work in Calgary.

Calgarians who suspect they may be the victim of contractor **fraud** are **encouraged** to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Match the words in bold with the correct definition. Do the ones you can then look in your dictionary or check the answer key.

Answer	Vocabulary	Definition
	in connection with	1. casual manual work; things needed to be done
	conned	2. the protective cover for a building or vehicle
	out of	3. people thought to be guilty of a crime
	roof	4. cheated; tricked
	eaves troughs	5. do
	odd jobs	6. from
	pointing out	7. wrongful or criminal act; a rip-off
	suspects	8. the gutters on a building
	carry out	9. advised; supported
	fraud	10. linked to
	encouraged	11. drawing someone's attention to

CONCLUSION

Are you familiar with Calgary Crime Stoppers? If not, visit:

www.calgarycrimestoppers.org



NEWSCAST 2

NOVA SCOTIA WOMAN GETS BACK \$23K SHE LOST



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-woman-23-000-cash-moncton-woods-rcmp-1.3612742>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTION

What would you do if you found a bag in the woods that had \$23,000 in cash, several pieces of jewelry, and letters?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary and their meanings below.

Vocabulary	Type	Meaning
reunited	past tense of reunite	came together again after a long time
lost	past tense of lose	was unable to find
hid	past tense of hide	was out of sight; was unable to be seen
hired	past tense of hire	employed someone to do something for \$
argument	noun	fight; disagreement
prompted	past tense of prompt	caused; resulted in
flagged down	phrasal verb	stopped a vehicle or its driver by waving
trucker	noun	a person that drives a large truck
suffered	past tense of suffer	experienced; received
of sentimental value	expression	something that a person thinks dearly of

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 1:12)

Listen to the news story once for overall comprehension.



LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 1:12)

Listen to the story again. Fill in the blank with the word that you hear.

A Nova Scotia _____ in her 80s has been reunited with more than \$23,000 in cash and several pieces of _____ she lost while hiding in the _____ in the Moncton, New Brunswick, area last August.

RCMP say the woman was _____ from Ontario to Nova Scotia. She _____ another woman to drive her there. During the drive, the two had an _____, which prompted the Nova Scotia woman to get out of the car.

She took her _____ with her, hid in the woods and later flagged down a trucker who then called _____. The woman was taken to hospital and treated for cuts, scratches and bug _____ she suffered while in the woods.

She told police she lost her bag, which also contained _____ of sentimental value. Officers tried to track it down using a police _____, but could not find it.

However, the woman was _____ with her belongings on May 30 after a local resident found the bag in the woods.

RCMP Sgt. Aurele Pelletier said, "She was _____ when we called to let her know the bag had been found. She said she's been _____ since August that the bag be found."

CONCLUSION

Now try to tell the story in your own words.

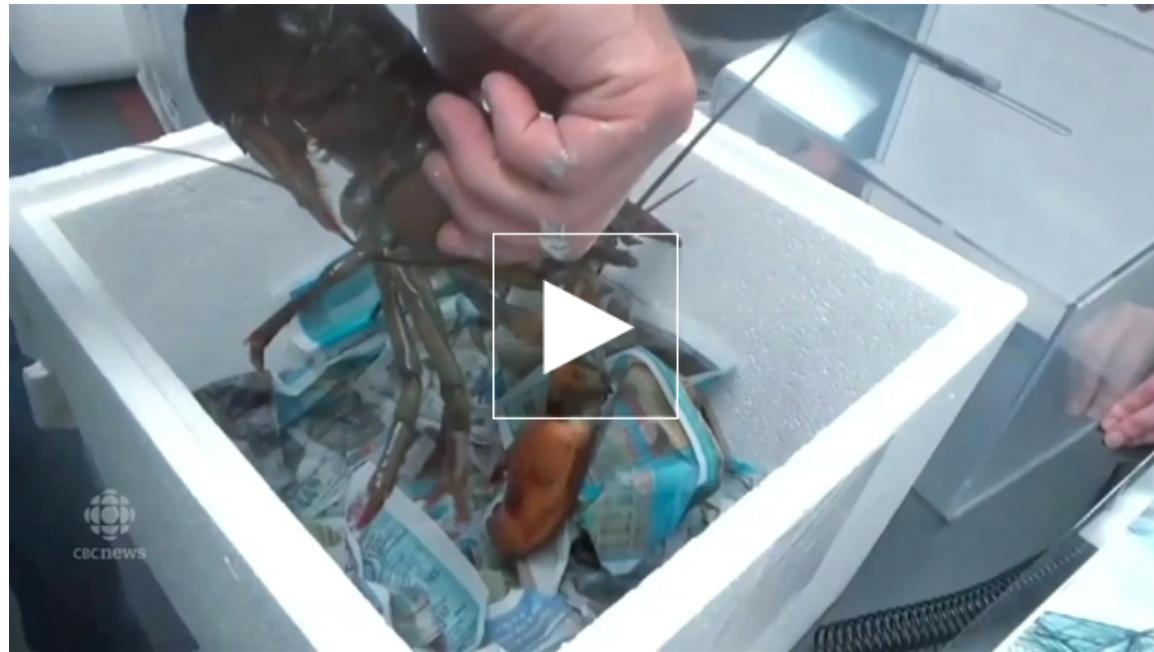
Speaker 1: Did you hear about the story of this lady that lost a bag of money in the woods and someone found it and returned it?

Speaker 2: No, I didn't.

Speaker 1: She...

NEWSCAST 3

A LOBSTER'S LUCKY DAY



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lobster-rescued-from-ontario-store-and-flown-back-to-nova-scotia-1.3609794>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Do you eat lobster? Do you like it? Do you know what a vegan is? Does a vegan eat lobster?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 2:47)

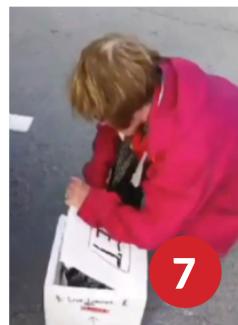
Listen to this story to find out why it was this lobster's lucky day. Use the space below to take notes so you can tell the story in your own words.



LISTENING AND SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Step 1: Listen to the news story again while looking at the photos from 1 to 10 below.
Step 2: Try to tell the story in your own words.

PHOTO STORY



Step 3: After telling the story in your own words, read the script on page 9 and/or click play to watch the video of this story.

Step 4: Tell the story again in your own words. This time, time yourself.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
INTRODUCTION	<p>Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of June 6th.</p>	0:00
NEWSCAST 1 CALGARY POLICE ARREST PAIR ACCUSED OF TARGETING SENIORS IN CONSTRUCTION SCAM Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-contractor-fraud-search-police-charged-1.3613004 CLB: 4/5	<p>Police have arrested a man and woman in connection with scams that conned Calgary seniors in the south of the city out of tens of thousands of dollars.</p> <p>One elderly victim, who had Alzheimer's disease, paid over \$8,500 for work on a roof last year that was never completed.</p> <p>The group offered to clean the victims' eaves troughs and do other odd jobs around their homes, but started pointing out other jobs they said needed doing, charging them more than \$37,000 for work that was never done.</p> <p>None of the suspects were licensed to carry out work in Calgary.</p> <p>Calgarians who suspect they may be the victim of contractor fraud are encouraged to contact police or CrimeStoppers.</p>	0:09
NEWSCAST 2 NOVA SCOTIA WOMAN GETS BACK \$23K SHE LOST Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-woman-23-000-cash-moncton-woods-rmp-1.3612742 CLB: 4/5	<p>A Nova Scotia woman in her 80s has been reunited with more than \$23,000 in cash and several pieces of jewelry she lost while hiding in the woods in the Moncton, New Brunswick, area last August.</p> <p>RCMP say the woman was moving from Ontario to Nova Scotia. She hired another woman to drive her there. During the drive, the two had an argument, which prompted the Nova Scotia woman to get out of the car.</p> <p>She took her bag with her, hid in the woods, and later flagged down a trucker who then called police. The woman was taken to hospital and treated for cuts, scratches and bug bites she suffered while in the woods.</p> <p>She told police she lost her bag, which also contained letters of sentimental value. Officers tried to track it down using a police dog, but could not find it.</p> <p>However, the woman was reunited with her belongings on May 30th after a local resident found the bag in the woods.</p> <p>The RCMP Sergeant said, "She was speechless when we called to let her know the bag had been found. She said she's been praying since August that the bag be found."</p>	1:12

<p>NEWSCAST 3</p> <p>A LOBSTER'S LUCKY DAY</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lobster-rescued-from-ontario-store-and-flown-back-to-nova-scotia-1.3609794</p> <p>CLB: 4/5</p>	<p>Christine Loughead, long-time vegetarian-turned-vegan, was in her local grocery store in northwestern Ontario when she spotted a lobster in a tank. The lobster was alive, destined for someone's dinner plate.</p> <p>She bought the lobster for \$20.23, brought it home, and wondered what to do next.</p> <p>After looking on Google, she realized the lobster most likely came from Nova Scotia, and thought it would be better to return it to the ocean than to keep it in a tank.</p> <p>Loughead posted a message on a Facebook group for vegans in Halifax, looking for someone who could put the lobster back in the ocean if she shipped it to Nova Scotia.</p> <p>Beth Kent of Bridgewater answered the message. She stopped eating meat 35 years ago and is passionate about helping all living beings.</p> <p>Loughead then drove six hours from her home to the UPS store in Winnipeg, which ships live animals. She spent \$225 to send the lobster to Halifax, where Kent picked it up.</p> <p>The lobster was packed in a Styrofoam box with cold packs and wet newspaper. Kent said she was relieved to see it was still alive and moving after the 24-hour journey.</p> <p>She drove the lobster to a spot she thought would be a good place to release it into the ocean, but changed her mind when she saw a fishing boat on the horizon.</p> <p>Kent then found a small cove where she thought the lobster would have better chances and put it in the water.</p> <p>"All of a sudden, he straightened out and walked over the rocks," she said.</p> <p>Back in Ontario, Loughead was relieved to hear the lobster completed the long, strange journey. Kent said she was happy to help this lobster.</p> <p>It was this lobster's very lucky day.</p>	<p>2:47</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

CALGARY POLICE ARREST PAIR ACCUSED OF TARGETING SENIORS IN CONSTRUCTION SCAM

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Answer	Vocabulary	Definition
10	in connection with	1. casual manual work; things needed to be done
4	conned	2. the protective cover for a building or vehicle
6	out of	3. people thought to be guilty of a crime
2	roof	4. cheated; tricked
8	eaves troughs	5. do
1	odd jobs	6. from
11	pointing out	7. wrongful or criminal act; a rip-off
3	suspects	8. the gutters on a building
5	carry out	9. advised; supported
7	fraud	10. linked to
9	encouraged	11. drawing someone's attention to



ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

NOVA SCOTIA WOMAN GETS BACK \$23K SHE LOST

A Nova Scotia **woman** in her 80s has been reunited with more than \$23,000 in cash and several pieces of **jewelry** she lost while hiding in the **woods** in the Moncton, New Brunswick, area last August.

RCMP say the woman was **moving** from Ontario to Nova Scotia. She **hired** another woman to drive her there. During the drive, the two had an **argument**, which prompted the Nova Scotia woman to get out of the car.

She took her **bag** with her, hid in the woods and later flagged down a trucker who then called **police**. The woman was taken to hospital and treated for cuts, scratches and bug **bites** she suffered while in the woods.

She told police she lost her bag, which also contained **letters** of sentimental value. Officers tried to track it down using a police **dog**, but could not find it.

However, the woman was **reunited** with her belongings on May 30 after a local resident found the bag in the woods.

RCMP Sgt. Aurele Pelletier said, "She was **speechless** when we called to let her know the bag had been found. She said she's been **praying** since August that the bag be found."



ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

N/A

INSTRUCTOR NOTES IF DONE IN CLASSROOM SETTING

If the photo story is done in a classroom environment, instructors should encourage learners to use full sentences, transitional phrases, and connectors where possible.

While learners are taking turns telling their story with a partner, instructors should be walking around the classroom listening to learners and making notes of any errors made and/or support required. This should be reviewed prior to learners telling the story for the second time.

Learners are instructed to read the script. The purpose of this is not to memorize the script but to clarify any details if needed.

If possible, learners should be encouraged to record themselves telling the story the second time so they can listen to themselves and work on developing their fluency for their language level.

An assessment form is included on the following page if instructors wish to use this as an assessment task or as a peer/self-evaluation tool to assess one another or themselves.

Instructors should familiarize themselves with the script and watch the video in advance to doing this story in the classroom.



PHOTO STORY ASSESSMENT FORM

NAME OF PRESENTER:

NAME OF EVALUATOR:

CANADIAN LANGUAGE BENCHMARKS SPEAKING DESCRIPTORS

Read the descriptors below and determine which benchmark best suits the speaker based on their performance of the photo story.

Benchmark 4

- Adequate competence in basic oral communication.
- Can describe the process of obtaining essential goods and services.
- Understands instructions.
- Clear evidence of connected discourse.
- Conveys messages using a variety of short sentences.
- Has control of basic grammar structures and tenses.
- Pronunciation difficulties may impede communication.
- Vocabulary adequate for basic oral communication.

Benchmark 5

- Can comprehend and relate video-mediated instructions.
- Understands and uses a variety of sentence structures.
- Discourse is reasonably fluent.
- Grammar and pronunciation errors may sometimes impede communication.
- Comprehends and uses a range of common vocabulary.

OVERALL RATING

Rate the photo story overall.

1	2	3	4
Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

COMMENTS:



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